

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 20, 2010

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Jim Knapp
	Chris Leroux	Kathleen Mills	Karen O'Farrell
	Debbie Siciliano	Kumares Sinha	Boudewijn van Gelder

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Beth Cook	Michelle Debord	Ann Hunt
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Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Ms. O'Farrell made a motion to approve the May minutes and Mr. Knapp seconded. The May minutes were approved as written.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**10-01 Citizen Concerns**

Ms. Hunt, representing the Central Campus and Neighborhood Association (CCNA), also known as the Island area, neighborhood association was asked by concerned citizens at the neighborhood meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> to voice their concerns to the Traffic Commission.

The first concern stated by Ms. Hunt was regarding safety at mid-block crosswalks on Russell Street for both students and drivers. Ms. Hunt is concerned that neither the pedestrians nor the drivers are aware of their roles when they approach mid-block crossings. Ms. Hunt stated the area is very well patrolled by the police departments but the drivers and pedestrians both need more education on these crosswalks. The neighborhood association group she is representing believes the crosswalks are more dangerous and would not like to see additional crosswalks. They suggest adding stop signs in place of mid-block crossings in the future. Mr. Buck responded that he does not believe the stop signs will alleviate the safety issue. Drivers may slow down or stop when there is a pedestrian near but they may not always stop at the stop sign if they do not see a pedestrian which will cause more accidents to happen.

Mr. Knapp stated he believes the crosswalk users are lax now because there is not a lot of driver or pedestrian traffic over the summer when most students are on summer break. Mr. Knapp agrees that more education is needed for pedestrian and vehicle traffic and they will begin doing that as the semester nears. They will also hand out information to students on mid-block crosswalks when they register for parking permits.

Capt. Leroux would like everyone to be patient as they begin phase 2 of implementing the crosswalks. He would like to remind everyone this is a four year process and we need to be patient and give people a chance to get used to the crosswalks before deciding they are not working.

The second concern Ms. Hunt discussed was the intersection of Second and Russell Streets. She states the concern is on the north east corner of those two streets. When you are turning left from Second onto Russell there is very poor visibility making it hazardous to turn in that direction. Mr. Buck will look into this matter it could be as simple as painting more yellow curb to eliminate parked cars from blocking driver views.

#### **10-05 Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon's (RRFB)**

Mr. Buck stated that he has learned from the Area Plan Commission that they are working to program HSIP funding before the obligation deadline. HSIP stands for Highway Safety Improvement Program. West Lafayette could request funds for Rapid Repeating Flashing Beacon (RRFB) that would work with mid-block crossings to ensure the safety of pedestrians when they cross the street.

Mr. Buck passed around an informational folder on RRFB's. When the pedestrian approaches and presses the button located at the intersection the crosswalk signal will then activate. When the signal is activated it would help draw motorists attention to the crosswalk and the driver would yield the right of way upon approaching. Mr. Sinha voiced concerned about need to maintain consistency at mid-block crossings. Mr. Buck stated at this time we would only be able to purchase 2 or 3 RRFB signals with funding available to us and at this time we have 13 crosswalks that could be candidates for such signals. The city could retro-fit and add more locations as funds became available.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **07-09 Cumberland Avenue Reconstruction**

Mr. Buck stated that the first phase of construction on Cumberland Avenue is still on-going. It has been a very rainy summer which has put construction about 4-6 weeks behind.

Look for information coming about roundabout education on our website soon.

#### **08-05 Mid-Block Crossings**

Mr. Buck brought to the commission requests for approval to move forward on for four mid-block pedestrian crossings: University & First, University & Second, University & Fifth, and Grant at the Purdue Union Building. The crossings are designed to encourage drivers to yield to pedestrians and provide pedestrians with a safe place to cross.

The drawings show enhanced 6' crossings in a ladder style, triangle yield bars 20' in advance of the crossings, and additional curb markings to shorten the length of crosswalks. In addition new pavement markings and new signage will be installed to remind drivers that Indiana state law requires them to yield to pedestrians.

Currently, the intersection of University and First Streets is affected by construction of the Marriott Hall building. Until construction is complete and fences are removed the yield bar markings will be temporary and will be finalized when construction is complete.

The intersections of University and Forth Streets will require new handicap ramps, relocation of a fire hydrant, and removal of parallel parking along the Purdue Armory. Mr. Buck suggested taking more time to study this location and budget funding and adequate construction time for this location.

The intersection of University and Fifth Streets will be designed to coordinate with Purdue's reconstruction of the Amory parking lot. A new handicap ramp will be installed on the SW corner.

Mr. Buck did not have an exhibit showing the Grant mid-block crossing at the Union, but informed the commission members he will email the packet showing all exhibits to them when he had them complete.

Capt. Leroux made a motion to endorse the 3 locations on University Street along with the Grant crossing at Union for Mr. Buck to move forward on the mid-block crossings. Ms. Burch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **08-14 Neighborhood Parking Permit Program**

Mr. Buck stated he has investigated the complaint by Mrs. Altschaeffl who resides at 1100 Northwestern Avenue and has trouble backing out of her driveway due to cars parked along the road that restrict her view. He agrees this is a problem and the parking in front of their driveway is not consistent with other parking in this neighborhood. He is looking into a solution, one solution may be to eliminate one or two parking spots so it will be consistent with the other driveways and the property owner will be able to back out of her driveway with unrestricted views.

#### **08-14 Neighborhood Parking Permit Program**

Capt. Leroux stated he has received a request from a homeowner at 1228 Ravinia who has two hour parking in front of her property and would like to be able to purchase a sticker to park there. These are the only two parking spots on Ravinia that are not available for permit parking. Mr. Buck said he would have Beth Cook look into the reasoning on why this is marked for two hour parking and that it could be because the previous owner did not sign the petition. He does not see any reason this can not be changed so she can purchase the parking permits.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 21, 2010, Lower Level Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Buck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer

DMB/md